

What is claimed is:

1. An absolute position detecting device for a linear actuator having a motor, an output shaft, and a conversion means for converting output rotation of the motor to linear motion of the output shaft, comprising:

a rotary absolute sensor that detects an absolute rotary position per rotation of the motor;

a linear absolute sensor that detects an absolute linear position within a set range of movement of the output shaft; and,

calculation means for calculating an absolute linear position of the output shaft based on a combination of an output of the rotary absolute sensor and an output of the linear absolute sensor; wherein

the range of movement of the output shaft over which the absolute linear position can be detected by the linear absolute sensor is different from a distance by which the output shaft is moved per rotation of the motor as converted by the conversion means.

2. The device according to claim 1, wherein the rotational absolute sensor is a motor control encoder affixed to the motor output shaft.